

Habitat Management (CSP Enhancements) Colorado Enhancement Activity Job Sheet H-2

October 2005

Name:

Prescribed Grazing that Promotes Wildlife Habitat Improvement for Grassland Species

Payment = \$ 1.00 / acre / year for each acre where a prescribed grazing system is used to enhance wildlife for grassland species on range and pasture lands.

Management of the grazing system will provide wildlife habitat for various grassland species such as, but not limited to, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, long-billed curlew, horned lark, lark bunting, western meadowlark, prairie falcon, and swift fox. The goal of the prescribed grazing system is to:

1. Provide a variety of habitat conditions in patches so that a variety of grassland birds with different habitat requirements can coexist on the same parcel of land.
2. Minimize impacts of grazing on riparian areas and wetlands.

A prescribed grazing plan must be developed that includes these provisions:

1. Must include a grazing schedule that provides a utilization level of no more than recommended for the ecological site with at least some land area in each of the five class categories each year (*see below for class categories*). Percent land area in Class should be adjusted by ecological site.
2. Minimum and maximum patch size should be specified in the plan.
3. Minimize use of permanent fencing to rotate animals. Instead use prescribed burning, water, and mineral rotations.
4. Growing season deferment of riparian areas and wetlands.

Class	Landscape Description
1	Rangeland shows no evidence of grazing or has the appearance of very light grazing. Herbaceous forage plants may be topped or slightly used. Current seed stalks and young plants are lightly disturbed
2	Rangeland may be topped, skimmed or grazed in patches. Low value herbaceous plants are ungrazed and 60-80% of the current seed stalks of herbaceous plants remain intact. Fewer than 50% of the young plants are grazed.
3	Rangeland appears entirely covered as uniformly as natural features and facilities will allow. 15-25% of the current seed stalks of herbaceous species remain intact. No more than 10% of the low-value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized.
4	Rangeland has the appearance of complete forage search. Herbaceous species are almost completely utilized, less than 10% of the current seed stalks remaining. Rhizomatous grasses are missing shoots. More than 10% of the low-value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized.
5	Rangeland has a mown appearance and there are indications of repeated use. There is no evidence of reproduction or current seed stalks of herbaceous species. Herbaceous forage species are completely utilized. Remaining stubble of preferred grasses is grazed to the soil surface. More than 50% of the low-value herbaceous plants are utilized.

Documentation Required: Use the following Table for documentation. Attach a plan map showing the field numbers identified in the grazing system.

Field(s) Identifier	% Class 1	% Class 2	% Class 3	% Class 4	% Class 5

I certify that I am following a prescribed grazing system on the pastures identified as required by this job sheet.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____